

## Topic Paper #3-4

# EXPANDING GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN EDUCATING TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ON PIPELINE PROJECTS

Prepared for the  
Permitting, Siting, and Community Engagement for  
Infrastructure Development Task Group

On December 12, 2019 the National Petroleum Council (NPC) in approving its report, *Dynamic Delivery – America's Evolving Oil and Natural Gas Transportation Infrastructure*, also approved the making available of certain materials used in the study process, including detailed, specific subject matter papers prepared or used by the study's Permitting, Siting, and Community Engagement for Infrastructure Development Task Group. These Topic Papers were working documents that were part of the analyses that led to development of the summary results presented in the report's Executive Summary and Chapters.

**These Topic Papers represent the views and conclusions of the authors. The National Petroleum Council has not endorsed or approved the statements and conclusions contained in these documents, but approved the publication of these materials as part of the study process.**

The NPC believes that these papers will be of interest to the readers of the report and will help them better understand the results. These materials are being made available in the interest of transparency.

The attached paper is one of 26 such working documents used in the study analyses. Appendix C of the final NPC report provides a complete list of the 26 Topic Papers. The full papers can be viewed and downloaded from the report section of the NPC website ([www.npc.org](http://www.npc.org)).

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# Topic Paper

(Prepared for the National Petroleum Council Study on Oil and Natural Gas Transportation Infrastructure)

<b>3-4</b>	<b>Expanding Government's Role in Educating Tribal Governments on Pipeline Projects</b>
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## SUMMARY

This paper discusses opportunities for the Department of Energy to enhance, educational programming related to oil and gas infrastructure development with Native American and Alaska Native tribes which would allow the energy infrastructure industry to work more effectively with tribal governments.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs is authorized to fund and implement a variety of programmatic activities that assist American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages with renewal energy development and capacity building at no cost to the tribes.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy has a resource library that provides links to helpful resources for tribes on energy project development on tribal lands. The resources are specifically focused on energy topics that help promote renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.<sup>i</sup>

On December 18, 2018 the President of the United States signed a Bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005. S. 245 made various amendments to existing federal energy programs on tribal lands. In carrying out the requirements established in the amendments the Secretary of DOE “shall provide technical assistance to interested Indian tribes to develop energy plans, including plans for oil and gas permitting”.

The Department of Interior, Indian Affairs, Division of Energy and Mineral Development assists tribes with the exploration, development, and management of their energy and mineral resources with the goal of creating jobs and sustainable tribal economies.<sup>ii</sup>

Although DOE’s and DOI’s efforts in the renewable energy arena are important, educational programming related to oil and gas infrastructure development would allow industry to work more effectively with tribal governments.

The DOE, in partnership with DOI could create a Tribal Oil and Gas Technical Assistance Program. The program could include an outreach initiative to educate tribal governments on the siting, permitting and operational aspects of pipeline projects on and off tribal lands. This will allow tribes to become more familiar with the oil and gas infrastructure development process and encourage relationship building with the private sector. Also, enhancing the DOE’s resource library with oil and gas specific topics would provide tribes another opportunity to expand their understanding of the process.

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/office-indian-energy-policy-and-programs>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ieed>